

July 1, 1958

Dr. K. V. Kossikov
Institute of Genetics
Academy of Sciences
Moscow, USSR

Dear Dr. Kossikov:

This letter is belated thanks for the reprints you sent me some weeks ago. As you know we are rather backward in our knowledge of Russian, but my wife has been studying it lately, and it is therefore not so inaccessible as it was.

Are you coming to the Stockholm Congress of Microbiology?

As you know from our correspondence last summer, I have been deeply interested in the problem of the origin of life. I was very sorry I could not come to Moscow for the symposium, but at the time I was very far away in Australia.

Since then, I have been concerned that the programs of space exploration by various nations should not interfere with ultimate biological exploration of the moon and the planets. Since so few biologists, even since "Sputnik", have expressed realistic plans, there is real danger that these vital issues may be overlooked. To help avoid this, I have begun some correspondence with Professor V. D. Timakov who will represent the USSR delegation at Stockholm to try to arrange some informal talks. I would be delighted to see you again if you are going to this Congress.

In London last year, you seemed most receptive to the proposal of holding the next Genetics Congress in Moscow. Is this still a serious possibility from your point of view? I regret I will not be able to return from Europe in time to reach this year's Genetics Congress at Montreal.

With all best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

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